BEFORE THE MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation Against:)
Augusto Sychukok, M.D.) Case No. 800-2017-032480
Physician's and Surgeon's))
Certificate No. C 40952)
Respondent)) _)

DECISION

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted as the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer Affairs, State of California.

This Decision shall become effective at 5:00 p.m. on June 5, 2019

IT IS SO ORDERED May 29, 2019

MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

Kimberly Kirchmo

Executive Director

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1	XAVIER BECERRA			
2	Attorney General of California GLORIA L. CASTRO			
3	Senior Assistant Attorney General STEVEN D. MUNI			
4	Supervising Deputy Attorney General State Bar No. 073567			
5	1300 I Street, Suite 125 P.O. Box 944255			
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7249			
7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247 E-mail: Steven.Muni@doj.ca.gov			
8	Attorneys for Complainant			
9	BEFORE THE			
10	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA			
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12				
13	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-032480		
14	AUGUSTO SYCHUKOK, M.D.	OAH No. 2018050119		
15	4625 Sycamore Avenue Sacramento, CA 95841	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF		
16	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 40952	LICENSE AND ORDER		
17	Respondent.			
18				
19	In the interest of a prompt and speedy settlement of this matter, consistent with the public			
20	interest and the responsibility of the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consume			
21	Affairs, the parties hereby agree to the following Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order			
22	which will be submitted to the Board for approval and adoption as the final disposition of the			
23	Accusation.			
24	PARTIES			
25	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) is the Executive Director of the Medical Boar			
26	of California (Board). She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is represented in			
27	this matter by Xavier Becerra, Attorney General of the State of California, by Steven D. Muni,			
20	Supervising Deputy Attorney General			

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- 2. Augusto Sychukok, M.D. (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by attorney Lawrence S. Giardina, Esq., whose address is: 400 University Ave. Sacramento, CA 95825-6502.
- 3. On or about May 23, 1983, the Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 40952 to Augusto Sychukok, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 800-2017-032480 and expired on August 31, 2018. On February 28, 2018, an Interim Order of Suspension was issued prohibiting Respondent from practicing medicine.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 800-2017-032480 was filed before the Board, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on April 5, 2019. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 800-2017-032480 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-032480. Respondent also has carefully read, fully discussed with counsel, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Having the benefit of counsel, Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

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CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent understands that the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 800-2017-032480, if proven at hearing, constitute cause for imposing discipline upon his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate.
- 9. For the purpose of resolving the Accusation without the expense and uncertainty of further proceedings, Respondent agrees that, at a hearing, Complainant could establish a factual basis for the charges in the Accusation and that those charges constitute cause for discipline, and hereby surrenders his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 40952 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 10. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation he enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of his Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate without further process.

RESERVATION

11. The admissions made by Respondent herein are only for the purposes of this proceeding, or any other proceedings in which the Medical Board of California or other professional licensing agency is involved, and shall not be admissible in any other criminal or civil proceeding.

CONTINGENCY

- 12. Business and Professions Code section 2224, subdivision (b), provides, in pertinent part, that the Medical Board "shall delegate to its executive director the authority to adopt a stipulation for surrender of license."
- 13. This Stipulated surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be subject to approval of the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be submitted to the Executive Director for her consideration in the above-entitled matter, and, further, that the Executive Director shall have a reasonable period of time in which to consider and act on this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order after receiving it. By signing the stipulation,

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Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Executive Director, on behalf of the Medical Board, considers and acts upon it.

14. The parties agree that this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order shall be null and void and not binding upon the parties unless approved and adopted by the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board, except for this paragraph, which shall remain in full force and effect. Respondent fully understands and accepts that in deciding whether or not to approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, the Executive Director and/or the Board may receive oral and written communications from its staff and/or the Attorney General's Office. Communications pursuant to this paragraph shall not disqualify the Executive Director, the Board, any member thereof, and/or any other person from future participation in this or any other mater affecting or involving Respondent. In the event that the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board does not, in her discretion, approve and adopt this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order, with the exception of this paragraph, it shall not become effective, shall be of no evidentiary value whatsoever, and shall not be relied upon or introduced in any disciplinary action by either party hereto. Respondent further agrees that should this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order be rejected for any reason by the Executive Director on behalf of the Medical Board, Respondent will assert no claim that the Executive Director, the Board, or any member thereof, was prejudiced by its/his/her review, discussion, and/or consideration of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order or of any matter or matters related hereto.

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

- 15. This Stipulated Surrender of License and Disciplinary Order is intended by the parties herein to be an integrated writing representing the complete, final and exclusive embodiment of the agreements of the parties in the above-entitled matter.
- 16. The parties understand and agree that Portable Document Format (PDF) and facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including PDF and facsimile signatures

thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals and may be used in lieu of original documents and signatures.

17. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Executive Director of the Medical Board, without further notice or opportunity to be heard by the Respondent or formal proceeding, may issue and enter the following Order on behalf of the Medical Board:

<u>ORDER</u>

IT.IS HEREBY ORDERED that Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 40952, issued to Respondent Augusto Sychukok, M.D., is surrendered and accepted by the Board.

- 1. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a Physician and Surgeon in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 2. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board his pocket license and, if one was issued, his wall certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- 3. If Respondent ever files an application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked or surrendered license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in Accusation No. 800-2017-032480 shall be deemed to be true, correct and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.

ACCÉPTANCE

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Lawrence S. Giardina, Esq. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate. I enter into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Medical Board of California.

DATED: 4/5/19

AUGUSTO SYCHUKOK, M.D.

Respondent

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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Augusto Sychukok, M.D. the terms and	
2	conditions and other matters contained in this Stipplated Surrender of License and Order. I	
3	approve its form and content.	
4 5	DATED: LAWRENCE S. GIARDINA, ESQ.	
6	Attorney for Respondent	
7	ENDORSEMENT The second of the	
8	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted	
	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.	
9	Dated: Respectfully submitted,	
10	XAVIER BECERRA Attorney General of California	
11	GLORIA L. CASTRO Senior Assistant Attorney General	
12	14-F)70.	
13	STEVEN D. MUNI	
14	Supervising Deputy Attorney General	
15	Attorneys for Complainant	
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1	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Augusto Sychukok, M.D. the terms and		
2	conditions and other matters contained in this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I		
3	approve its form and content.		
4	DATED:		
5	LAWRENCE S. GIARDINA, ESQ. Attorney for Respondent		
6	ENDORSEMENT		
7	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully submitted		
8	for consideration by the Medical Board of California of the Department of Consumer Affairs.		
9	Dated: Respectfully submitted,		
10	XAVIER BECERRA		
11	Attorney General of California GLORIA L. CASTRO		
12	Senior Assistant Attorney General		
13	Atene & Mum		
14	STEVEN D. MUNI Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
15	Attorneys for Complainant		
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Exhibit A

Accusation No. 800-2017-032480

1	XAVIER BECERRA	•	
	Attorney General of California	FILED	
2	MATTHEW M. DAVIS Supervising Deputy Attorney General	STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
3.	DEMOND L. PHILSON Deputy Attorney General	MEDICAL BOARD OF CALIFORNIA SACRAMENTO MOUZH 14 20 18	
4	State Bar No. 220220 1300 I Street, Suite 125	BY COUCLEOSTON ANALYST	
5	P.O. Box 944255		
6	Sacramento, CA 94244-2550 Telephone: (916) 210-7548	•	
. 7	Facsimile: (916) 327-2247		
. 8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFOR	к тик	
10	MEDICAL BOARD	OF CALIFORNIA	
	DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
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12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 800-2017-032480	
13	Augusto Sychukok, M.D. 2828 Mills Park Drive, Ste. B	ACCUSATION	
14	Rancho Cordova, CA 95670		
15	Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate No. C 40952,		
16	,		
17	Respondent.		
18	·		
19	Complainant alleges:	·	
20	PART	TIES	
21	1. Kimberly Kirchmeyer (Complainant) brings this Accusation solely in her official		
22	capacity as the Executive Director of the Medical Board of California, Department of Consumer		
23	Affairs (Board).		
24	2. On or about May 23, 1983, the Medical Board issued Physician's and Surgeon's		
- 25	Certificate Number C 40952 to Augusto Sychukok, M.D. (Respondent). The Physician's and		
26	Surgeon's Certificate was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought		
27	herein and will expire on August 31, 2018, unless renewed.		
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(AUGUSTO SYCHUKOK, M.D.) ACCUSATION NO. 800-2017-032480

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JURISDICTION

- 3. This Accusation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
 - 4. Section 820 of the Code states:

"Whenever it appears that any person holding a license, certificate or permit under this division or under any initiative act referred to in this division may be unable to practice his or her profession safely because the licentiate's ability to practice is impaired due to mental illness, or physical illness affecting competency, the licensing agency may order the licentiate to be examined by one or more physicians and surgeons or psychologists designated by the agency. The report of the examiners shall be made available to the licentiate and may be received as direct evidence in proceedings conducted pursuant to Section 822."

5. Section 822 of the Code states:

"If a licensing agency determines that its licentiate's ability to practice his or her profession safely is impaired because the licentiate is mentally ill, or physically ill affecting competency, the licensing agency may take action by any one of the following methods:

- "(a) Revoking the licentiate's certificate or license.
- "(b) Suspending the licentiate's right to practice.
- "(c) Placing the licentiate on probation.
- "(d) Taking such other action in relation to the licentiate as the licensing agency in its discretion deems proper.

"The licensing agency shall not reinstate a revoked or suspended certificate or license until it has received competent evidence of the absence or control of the condition which caused its action and until it is satisfied that with due regard for the public health and safety the person's right to practice his or her profession may be safely reinstated."

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CAUSE FOR ACTION

(Inability to Practice Medicine Safely)

- 6. Respondent Augusto Sychukok, M.D. is subject to action under section 822 in that his ability to practice his profession safely is impaired due to an unspecified neurocognitive disorder. The circumstances are as follows:
- 7. On May 2, 2017, the Board received a Peer Review Reporting Form (805 report) from Partnership HealthPlan of California (Partnership) against Respondent. Partnership had evaluated the care and treatment Respondent provided to Partnership's patients. During the course of Partnership's review, it was determined that Respondent needed to be evaluated by the Physician Assessment and Clinical Education (PACE) Program in San Diego, California, as a condition for continued credentialing by the Credentialing Committee of Partnership.
- 8. From January 23 through 27, 2017, Respondent underwent a five-day physician assessment at PACE due to concerns of his ability to practice medicine safely for Partnership.

 PACE was unable to complete the evaluation because they recommended that Respondent undergo a neuropsychological evaluation. Based on an assessment report, dated March 8, 2017, PACE made several recommendations, including that Respondent immediately cease practicing medicine until he underwent a comprehensive fitness for duty neuropsychological evaluation.

 PACE found that Respondent had serious deficits in his clinical abilities that needed to be addressed before he could safely return to practice.
- 9. Based on the PACE findings, Partnership determined that a situation existed in which immediate action was required to protect the life, or well-being of Partnership members or to reduce the imminent likelihood of significant impairment of the life, health, or safety of any patient or prospective patient. On April 24, 2017, Partnership suspended Respondent's staff privileges.
- 10. On May 2, 2017, as a result of PACE's report and recommendation, Partnership filed an 805 report with the Board.
- On July 17, 2017, Respondent signed a Voluntary Agreement for a Mental
 Examination. The evaluation was performed by an expert psychologist on October 11, 2017.

- 12. The expert psychologist concluded that Respondent suffers from an Unspecified Neurocognitive Disorder, Mild to Moderate, that negatively impacts his ability to safely engage in the practice of medicine. The expert psychologist determined the cognitive disorder to be the result of a deteriorating process and is not likely to improve with treatment. Based on his knowledge, training, and experience, the expert psychologist found that patient harm is likely to occur if Respondent was allowed to continue practicing medicine.
- 13. Respondent is presently unfit to practice medicine in that he has a physical or mental impairment that affects his competency to practice medicine safely. Permitting Respondent to maintain his physician's and surgeon's license and to engage in the practice of medicine will endanger the public's health, safety, and welfare.
- 14. Respondent is subject to action under Business and Professions Code section 822 in that his ability to practice medicine safely is impaired due an unspecified neurocognitive disorder.

PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Medical Board of California issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Physician's and Surgeon's Certificate Number C 40952, issued to Augusto Sychukok, M.D.;
- 2. Revoking, suspending or denying approval of Augusto Sychukok, M.D.'s authority to supervise physician assistants and advanced practice nurses;
- 3. Ordering Augusto Sychukok, M.D., if placed on probation, to pay the Board the costs of probation monitoring; and
 - 4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: March 14, 2018

KIMBERLY KIRCHMEYER

Executive Director

Medical Board of California

Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California

Complainant

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